

Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Meeting Summary

February 2, 2017 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
MassDEP, One Winter Street, Boston, MA

Statewide Disposal & Capacity Data Update and Discussion

John Fischer from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) presented draft 2015 solid waste disposal data and capacity projections.

Q: Why are Bourne and Carver taking reduced amounts of MSW?

A: Both sites are taking primarily municipal waste combustor ash. According to Phil Goddard from the Town of Bourne, this is a business decision based on long-term stability of available material.

Q: Do future disposal projections account for growth of the economy/population?

A: No they do not, nor do they incorporate other economic modelling. MassDEP projects two simple scenarios:

- 1) That disposal decreases in line with achieving the Solid Waste Master Plan goal of 4,550,000 tons of disposal in 2020
- 2) That disposal remains level during this time period.

Q: Was the utilization rate (59% for 2015) calculated in the past?

A: Yes, it was included in the previous year's data update.

Q: Bourne and Carver landfills are taking primarily ash, which reduces their MSW disposal capacity. Why isn't this reflected?

A: This is reflected via the capacity utilization rate. MassDEP elected to project capacity availability based on historic utilization rates (from the most recent year) We are open to calculating available capacity differently if solid source data is available for specific facilities.

Q: How is the information in the shaded (future capacity projections) determined?

A: This information comes from MassDEP regional offices.

Q: Do the combustion capacity figures account for repairs or downtime?

A: The figures are for permitted capacity, so given those factors; actual disposal at those facilities could be lower than shown.

Draft Best Management Practices for Contracting with Haulers

Heather Billings from RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts detailed discussion points from the stakeholder involvement process that will be included in a final Best Management Practices document to be completed in the spring. This document is intended for use by businesses and

institutions in contracting with haulers for waste, recycling, and food waste collection services. The draft BMPs will be sent to all meeting and webinar participants.

Q: Municipalities can use IFPs (lowest bid) or RFPs in contracting process. Is there a preferred method?

A: MassDEP does contracting workshops for municipalities and there is actually an ongoing parallel project to develop model municipal hauler recycling requirements. These BMPs are primarily for use by businesses.

Q: Based on your experience, what percentage of businesses are unfamiliar with the Waste Bans?

A: Without knowing the actual percentage, there are definitely some entities that are surprised certain items are banned from disposal. Lorenzo Macaluso added that over the past five years of addressing various stakeholders, he has noticed fewer participants that are unfamiliar with the Waste Bans.

Q: With respect to the Waste Bans, is there a complete lack of knowledge or do business owners have more pressing issues than educating themselves on waste?

A: Sometimes both, but over the years many have also worked to educate themselves and establish sound recycling programs.

Recycling Business Development Grants: Target Materials for 2017 Applications

Janice Pare from MassDEP reviewed the results of the first two rounds of Recycling Business Development Grants and previewed potential new focus areas.

Q: The grants for food waste de-packaging equipment apply to good food getting tossed. Have grants been considered for food rescue?

A: This has been discussed for future grant rounds. Other agencies are working on this topic as well, such as the MA Food Policy Council. If this will be a component of the grant program in the future, we want to coordinate with these other groups.

Q: Has there been interest from haulers working with entities not currently subject to the food waste ban?

A: Some haulers are working with entities not subject to the commercial organics ban, however, these grants are not for hauling or collection activities. Haulers are eligible to receive funding through MassDEP's Recycling Loan Fund.

Draft Best Management Practices for C&D Reuse and Recovery

Josh Cook from RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts reviewed the key points from stakeholder discussions about reuse and recycling of construction and demolition materials prior to the finalization of a Best Management Practices document in the spring. The draft BMPs will be sent to all meeting and webinar participants.